

1 John Series

Lesson #044

November 18, 2001

Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

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**Modernism and  
Post-Modernism;  
1 John 2:15**

- **66% believe no such thing as absolute truth exists.**
- **72% of those between 18–25.**
- **53% of evangelicals believe there are no absolutes—not even Christ is absolute.**

- a. The collapse of the importance of religious belief.**
- b. Globalism**
- c. Now fragmentation and polarization have left us in culture wars.**

# MODERNISM

Immanuel  
Kant:  
Subjectivism

RATIONALISM  
EMPIRICISM

SKEPTICISM  
EXISTENTIALISM

19<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup>  
Centuries

Descartes  
Locke

The Enlightenment ca 1640–1780

Post-  
Modernism  
(1900–present)



**No Meaning, No God  
Existential Darkness, Despair**

**DETAILS/PHENOMENA**

People      Observable phenomena

Things      Events      Language



# Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

**Subject**

**B-C**

**Modernism/**

**Postmodernism**

**Human nature**

**Mankind is in the image of God; spiritual and physical**

**Humans are material machines. No opinion; suspicious of any dogmatic assertions. The universe is purely physical. Nothing exists beyond our senses.**

# Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

**Subject**

**B-C**

**Modernism/**

**Postmodernism**

**Free  
will**

**Diminished by sin;  
still morally  
responsible.**

**Autonomous and  
self-governing.  
People are  
products of their  
culture and only  
Choose their own  
direction.  
imagine they are  
self-governing.**



# Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

**Subject**

**B-C**

**Modernism/  
Postmodernism**

**View of  
reason**

**Reason is necessary but not the basis for understanding reality; it discover some truth, but revelation is also needed.**

**Rationalism and empiricism are the only basis for discovering truth. Denies objective reason, rationalism is a myth.**

# Comparison of Modernism, Postmodernism and Biblical Christianity

**Subject**

**B-C**

**Modernism/**

**Postmodernism**

**View of  
progress**

**Mankind isn't  
progressing toward  
anything; advances  
are positive, but  
there is no utopia  
brought in by man.**

**Mankind is  
progressing by  
Denies objective  
using science and  
reason, rationalism  
reason.  
is a myth.**

**4. Christianity: Truth is objective and can be known.**

**PM:**

**Human beings make up their own reality; multiple realities are equally true.**

**PM:**

**Meaning is created by a social group  
and its language.**

**5. It is impossible to know God,  
history, or reason.**

**6. It is impossible to communicate truth because:**

**7. Since there are no absolutes behind language, then each person is trapped and imprisoned by their own language or culture or group that seeks to marginalize them. For example in PM reasoning.**



**“How old are you?”**

**“I'm seven and a half exactly!”**

**“You needn't say exactly,” the Queen remarked, “I can believe it without that. Now I'll give you something to believe. I'm just one hundred and one, five months and a day.”**

**“I can't believe that,” said Alice.**

**“Can’t you?” the Queen said, in a pitying tone, “Try again: draw a long breath, and shut your eyes.”**

**Alice laughed. “There’s no use trying,” she said, “one can’t believe impossible things.”**

**“I daresay you haven’t had much practice,” said the Queen. “When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”**

**8. All knowledge and all language depend on the validity of logic.**

**9. With no absolutes, no objective Truth, the rasion is replaced by the aesthetic, we believe what we like, what appeals to us, it is a matter of taste, pleasure. Since belief is personal preference, then criticism is a personal attack. Persuasion becomes difficult i.e., that just isn't true for me.**

**10. Information is in overload and knowledge is scarce.**

**11. Provides rationalizations for  
the sin nature.**